

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 OMB-01 MC-02 DRC-01 /135 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7070

INFO USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 377

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6237

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SP

SUBJ: UN EMERGENCY FORCE

REF: STATE 211411

1. SPANISH COULD BE EXPECTED TO BE MOST CAUTIOUS ABOUT PARTICIPATION IN UNEF AND BASIC INSTINCT WOULD PROBABLY BE TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT. RELUCTANCE WOULD STEM FROM FEAR OF BEING FORCED TO ACT POLITICALLY OR MILITARILY AGAINST ARAB INTERESTS, THUS RISKING POSSIBLE ARAB REPRISALS AGAINST PETROLEUM SUPPLY OR NORTH AFRICAN HOLDINGS.

2. THERE IS, HOWEVER, OUTSIDE CHANCE SPAIN WOULD SEND UNITS IF REQUESTED. FACTORS NOW OPERATING IN FAVOR OF ACCEPTANCE ARE GOS AMBITIONS FOR A MORE VISIBLE WORLD ROLE AND DESIRE AMONG MILITARY FOR OPPORTUNITY FOR FOREIGN EXPERIENCE. BUT ACCEPTANCE, IF IT CAME AT ALL, WOULD COME ONLY UNDER CERTAIN CAREFUL CONDITIONS. GOS WOULD PROBABLY BE WARY OF POSSIBLE ISOLATION AND WOULD EXPECT UNEF TO INCLUDE BROAD AND VARIED PARTICIPATION AND TO BE IDEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE. GOS WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE BY
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SIZEABLE NUMBER OF OTHER STATES, PARTICULARLY BY ARABS.

(US URGING ALONE WOULD LIKELY NOT BE VERY PRODUCTIVE.)

3. IN EVENT OF ACCEPTANCE, GOS COULD BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE ONE COMPANY TO ONE BATTALION OF COMBAT TROOPS, WHICH PROBABLY WOULD BE DRAWN FROM SPECIAL FORCES OR "IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION FORCES" NOW IN PENINSULA. ALTERNATIVELY, IF COMBAT UNIT OPTION RULED OUT, GOS WOULD PROBABLY PROVIDE COMPANY-SIZE SERVICE UNIT IN SUCH FIELDS AS COMMUNICATIONS, TRUCK TRANSPORTATION OR MEDICAL. ORGANIC EQUIPMENT PROBABLY AVAILABLE FOR DEPLOYMENT, BUT RESUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE NOT LIKELY TO BE FURNISHED BY SPAIN.

4. FORCES COULD PROBABLY BE READY FOR DEPLOYMENT WITH ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT WITHIN ONE WEEK TO TEN DAYS AFTER POLITICAL DECISION TO PARTICIPATE. SPANISH AIR FORCE NOW HAS CAPABILITY TO AIRLIFT ALL PERSONNEL AND LIGHT GEAR TO MIDDLE EAST. WHILE GOS LACKS PLANES TO AIRLIFT VEHICLES AND HEAVIER EQUIPMENT, IT COULD PROVIDE SEA TRANSPORT FOR THEM IN SPANISH FLAG VESSELS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MADRID06237
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS RIVERO
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731010/aaaaagtm.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 211411
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <30-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN EMERGENCY FORCE
TAGS: MARR, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005